

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN JO 00289 202219Z

67

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 (ISO) W

----- 064538

R 201744Z JAN 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN UPDATE

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2569

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 0289

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER L.)

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF: MEETING WITH MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY
CHARPENTIER

H TO PASS TO CODEL

REF STATE 002686

1. ON JANUARY 12, 1976, CODEL MET WITH MINISTER OF PUBLIC
SECURITY MARIO CHARPENTIER. DCM AND DEA REPRESENTATIVE ALSO
ATTENDED.

2. MINISTER CHARPENTIER BEGAN BY DESCRIBING DEMOCRATIC AND
PEACEFUL TRADITIONS OF COUNTRY AND STATED THAT AT THE
PRESENT TIME COSTA RICA HAS VERY FEW PROBLEMS CONCERNING
GUERRILLA OR MILITANT ACTIVITIES BUT THAT THERE MAY BE MORE
IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT IN THE LAST ELECTION ONLY 3 TO 4
PERCENT OF THE VOTES WERE COMMUNIST. CHARPENTIER ADDED THAT
DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING SECURITY PROBLEMS IN
THE FUTURE THE GOCR MAY BE ASKING THE UNITED STATES FOR
ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES.
PREVIOUSLY COSTA RICA HAD THE BENEFIT OF THE AID PUBLIC
SAFETY PROGRAM HERE HE SAID, BUT THAT PROGRAM HAD BEEN
CANCELLED. THE ASSISTANCE NOW BEING RECEIVED FROM THE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION IN NARCOTICS MATTERS AND
ADVISORY ASSISTANCE WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED AND NARCOTICS
SEIZURES, HE FELT, SOMEWHAT COMPENSATED FOR THIS HELP BE-
CAUSE COSTA RICA IS A BRIDGE FROM COLOMBIA TO THE UNITED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN JO 00289 202219Z

STATES AND MEXICO. THE MINISTER SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY

TEN KILOS OF COCAINE HAD BEEN SEIZED IN COSTA RICA. HE ADDED THAT THEY NEEDED OUR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE BECAUSE COSTA RICA DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO WORK EFFECTIVELY IN THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS FIELD BY THEMSELVES.

3. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF DESCRIBED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DRUG CONTROL PROBLEM IN THE U.S. HE EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD CHARGED HIM AND CONGRESSMAN GILMAN WITH DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS. HE STATED THAT THEY WERE PLEASED WITH THEIR EARLIER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER, WHO HAD SUGGESTED THAT A COOPERATIVE PLAN BE DEVELOPED TO CONDUCT SURVEILLANCE OF THE NUMEROUS AIR STRIPS IN COSTA RICA AND THAT THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS THE CONGRESSMEN WILL MAKE UPON THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF CONTINUED THAT THE GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE IN COSTA RICA ARE APPROPRIATE FOR PRODUCING THE OPIUM POPPY AND IF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IS SUCCESSFUL IN MEXICO DRUG TRAFFICKERS MAY COME HERE. WE MUST JOINTLY ANTICIPATE THAT. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL.

4. CONCURRING IN THIS APPRECIATION FOR COSTA RICA'S CONCERN AND COOPERATION, CONGRESSMAN GILMAN SAID THAT A WORLDWIDE ATTACK ON THE DRUG PROBLEM IS NEEDED. HE STATED THAT THE WORLD WAS CONFRONTED WITH AN ORGANIZED CRIMINAL NETWORK INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, AND CITED THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM IN MEXICO AS AN EXAMPLE.

5. MINISTER CHARPENTIER RESPONDED THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO SEE THIS PROBLEM COMING IN COSTA RICA AND IT WAS AT HIS REQUEST THE DEA OFFICE WAS OPENED HERE. HE PRAISED THE COOPERATION OF THE USG AND SAID THAT THE POINT OF VIEW OF PRESIDENT FORD IS CORRECT. HE WOULD LIKE MORE HELP AND COOPERATION ALTHOUGH IT IS ALREADY VERY GOOD, SINCE THE GOCR CANNOT GET THE EQUIPMENT IT NEEDS DUE TO A LOW BUDGET. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THEY HAVE ONLY TWO PATROL BOATS. THE GOCR DOESN'T WANT GIFTS BUT WOULD LIKE TO BUY AT A LOW PRICE TWO SMALL SURPLUS HELICOPTERS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAN JO 00289 202219Z

VIETNAM, SOME PATROL BOATS, AND A COASTAL PATROL TYPE AIRCRAFT. WITH SUCH HELP HE SAID COSTA RICA COULD COOPERATE EVEN MORE ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HELP ITSELF FIRST. THE MINISTER CONCLUDED THAT COSTA RICA HAS PRINCIPALLY A MARIHUANA PROBLEM BECAUSE THE PEOPLE HERE DON'T HAVE MONEY TO BUY MANY HARD DRUGS BUT IF THERE IS A CHANCE OF OPIUM BEING GROWN HERE IT MUST BE WATCHED. HE PROMISED HIS COOPERATION.

6. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF REPLIED THAT ON THE CODEL'S RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES THEY WOULD AGAIN MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WOULD RELAY THE GOCR'S MESSAGE BACK AND SEE IF SOMETHING OF MUTUAL BENEFIT CAN BE WORKED OUT. THE MEETING ENDED WITH A DISCUSSION OF COOPERATION AMONG CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND PATTERNS OF COCAINE TRAFFICKING FROM THE SOUTH, ESPECIALLY THROUGH SAN ANDRES.
TODMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANJO00289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760021-0928
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760140/aaaabjvx.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 2686
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL WOLFF: MEETING WITH MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY CHARPENTIER
TAGS: OREP, (WOLFF, LESTER L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006